



**SANTEE-LYNCHES
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Virtual Youth Committee Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, January 10, 2023 - 10:00 AM**

MINUTES

Members Present via Zoom:

Calvin Hastie (Chairman), Dr. Vanessa Canty, Jeannine Gamble, Barbara Brown, Brenda Gardner, Gail Lemmon, Loretta Gaillard, Veronica Robinson

Members Not Present

Ramona Lies, Fred Brantley

Workforce Development Staff Present:

Areatha Clark, SLRCOG Deputy Executive Director, Workforce Development, Chief
Esmonde Levy, SLRCOG Workforce Development Manager
Steve Berger, SLRCOG Business Lead
Freda Amerson, SLRCOG Workforce Development Operations Coordinator
Kourtney Hammond, SLRCOG Administrative Assistant I-PR

Guests:

Ray Jackson, One-Stop Manager, Eckerd Connects-Workforce Development
Berri Outlaw, Economic Development Regional Manager, SCDEW
Deidre Smalls, Area Manager, Eckerd Connects-Workforce Development
Renee Alexander, Eckerd Connects - Workforce Development

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Calvin Hastie called the Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board's Youth Committee Meeting to order at 10:15 AM. A quorum is present.

II. Approval of Agenda – (M)

Chairman Calvin Hastie called for a motion to approve the minutes. **A motion was made by Ms. Brenda Gardner and seconded by Ms. Veronica Robinson.** There being no discussion, Chairman Hastie called for the vote. **All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

III. Approval of Minutes- September 6, 2022 (M)

Chairman Calvin Hastie called for a motion to approve the minutes from September 6, 2022. **A motion was made by Ms. Veronica Robinson and seconded by Dr. Vanessa Canty.** There being no discussion, Chairman Hastie called for the vote. **All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

IV. Youth Performance Update

Ms. Deidre Smalls, Area Manager for Eckerd Connects, presented the Youth Performance Update.

Chart I: Total Active Enrollments (7/1/2022 through 12/29/2022)

New - 23

Actual - 38

Goal - 105

Ms. Smalls informed the Committee that Eckerd's focus is to increase the number of enrollments. Currently, total enrollments stand at 36% of the goal. Ideally, they were striving for 50% at this point in the program year. Chairman Hastie asked Ms. Smalls to identify the actions they are taking to increase enrollments. Ms. Smalls shared that she does have some goals for the third quarter: Staff go to our Adult Ed Centers weekly and are working on their Adult Ed partnerships at each of the centers to help recruit Adult Ed students. She also stated that they are looking to partner with new organizations in Lee County and strengthen their relationship with other core partners. Also, staff plan to seek parents that possibly have youth in DSS cases that fall within the serviceable age range. Ms. Smalls expressed that after noticing the small percentage of Youth visiting the Center compared to Adults, they are strategically working to increase this percentage.

Chairman Hastie expressed to Ms. Smalls and the Committee that he works with youth court cases. He explained that of the twelve cases he currently has, six of them are not in school and recommended Ms. Smalls and her team to reach out to those youth for possible assistance. Ms. Smalls agreed to further assist Chairman Hastie on these particular cases.

Ms. Areatha Clark recommended Ms. Smalls reach out to other entities such as DJJ (outside of Adult Ed) to recruit youth. These individuals may have minor offenses but may require assistance with finding employment.

Chart 2: Occupational Skills Training

Received Training - 16 Youth

- Transportation & Healthcare Sector
 - Certified Nursing Assistant
 - Phlebotomy
 - CDL

Ms. Smalls expressed that with the CDL program, participants under the age of 21 are experiencing challenges with gaining employment in this field. She shared to the Committee that they are working pre-hire letters when seeking new employer partners. Out of the sixteen-youth enrolled in training, two of them have successfully completed and ten are still enrolled in training. Dr. Vanessa Canty reported that the school district is looking for CDL Drivers. Clark explained that this is a critical issue due to employers not willing to ensure individuals under 21 years of age because of the high costs associated.

Ms. Gardner asked Ms. Smalls for clarification that the employers are providing pre-hire letters but are not hiring the individuals. Ms. Smalls confirmed that this is correct. Ms. Smalls also added that the pre-hire qualifications are not contract bound to the employers, but it does provide them documentation that the prospect has been granted the training needed to be hired. Ms. Smalls added that her team is closely monitoring this process due to spending \$6,000/person on two individuals that are currently experiencing this issue. Ms. Gardner requested Ms. Smalls provide contact information for career coaches in case she comes into contact with youth she can refer to the program.

Chart 3: Youth Performance Outcomes Update

Credentials - 23

Measurable Skills Gain - 59

Ms. Smalls further explained to the Committee that multiple Credentials can be earned in the Health Care Sector, such as a CNA or phlebotomy certification.

Chart 4: Performance Outcomes Update

WEX/OJT - 5

Resumes Created - 22

Career Smart - 24

Adult Education - 5

Ms. Smalls further explained that they currently have two participants in WEX/OJT who should be finished with their virtual work experience training program within the next few weeks. She also shared with the Committee that the virtual work experience training consists of 14 elements that are more intensive soft skills trainings. The program is focused on web design, social media marketing, and customer service fields.

3rd Quarter Goals:

Ms. Smalls shared their goals for the 3rd quarter to gain more enrollments.

- New Outreach and Partnership opportunities to increase OSY enrollments.
- Establish new business partnerships to expand work-based learning opportunities.
- Strengthen Partnerships with core and mandated SC Works Partners to increase referral pipeline.
- Partner with local school districts to identify seniors without a post-graduation plan.

Ms. Smalls added that they are spending their Youth training funding quickly this program year and is working to develop sufficient ways to build a referral pipeline and developing youth partnerships to help with costs.

Chairman Hastie requested Ms. Smalls to extend an invitation to all of the graduation events SC Works hosts moving forward.

V. Financial Report

Mr. Esmonde Levy, Workforce Manager, presented the Financial Report for PY'2022 through 11/30/2022.

Chart 1: Eckerd Youth Total

Eckerd has expended \$121,505 of \$400,000 (30.4% expended) with a remaining balance of \$278,495.

Chart 2: Eckerd Youth Total

Jul-22: \$17,872

Aug-22: \$12,121

Sep-22: \$47,841

Oct-22: \$20,460

Nov-22: \$23,210

Chairman Hastie asked Mr. Levy to identify the spike of expenditures in September. Mr. Levy explained the \$47,841 for September included increased tuition enrollment expenses.

VI. Other Business/Committee Discussion Committee Member Updates/Announcements

Dr. Canty shared with the Committee that she had a project to send a bulk mailout to all youth prior to the Christmas Holiday utilizing free services that Adult Ed provides. She expressed that though this information was sent, no one is coming in. She expressed that the funding for these services will expire later this year.

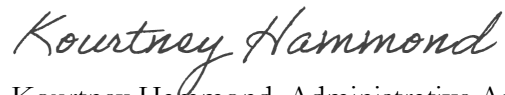
Ms. Loretta Gaillard introduced herself to the Committee as Resident Services Coordinator at the Sumter Housing Authority. She is interested in getting flyers with information from SC Works to extend the assistance of passing them out in the community.

Ms. Barbara Brown expressed that with the deliberative dialogs that she done in the prison at McDugell, it was stated that they were able to tell a tremendous difference in the behaviors of inmates after about a year. One of them also picked it up and did forums on the prison campus and the deputy director indicated that it made the campus calmer. Ms. Brown asked for assistance to further expand this program and to help get the word out. Ms. Gaillard agreed to assist Ms. Brown also mentioned getting with the Adult Education Centers as well on this project.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30AM.

Recorded by,



Kourtney Hammond, Administrative Assistant I-PR
Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments